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The Clairvoyant Eye of the First Assistant Secretary of State.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer, a candid newspaper, imputes directly to Assistant Secretary FRANCIS B. LOOMIS the responsibility for those troubles arising out of premature enterprise and mysterious diplomacy in Santo Domingo which must have borne so heavily on Secretary HAY's overtaxed endurance. This is what our contemporary says:

"It is known, though not officially, that the amazing 'protocol' of Jan. 20, which was received by the country and later repudiated by the State Department itself, was the work of Mr. LOOMIS. In whose hands, owing to the illness of Mr. HAY and the pressure upon him of other business, the Santo Domingo matter had been left. Later Mr. LOOMIS, while acting Secretary of State, came out in a public statement in which he practically admitted that it was the Administration's purpose to proceed under this agreement to administer the finances of the black republic without waiting for the approval of the United States Senate or the Dominican Congress. This was a bad matter made worse, and Secretary HAY only recently was obliged to declare that this Government had no such intention, thus flatly contradicting his subordinate."

We do not care just now to express any opinion as to the accuracy of the foregoing statement that the now celebrated "high official of the State Department" is none other than the Hon. FRANCIS B. LOOMIS. We may, however, be permitted to indulge in speculation about the origin of the theory upon which the Santo Domingo policy was based, namely, that prompt, if irregular, action was required in Santo Domingo to avert war with some European Power for the maintenance of the Monroe Doctrine.

Mr. LOOMIS seems to have a vision that pierces the gloom of the future as easily as a Mauser bullet makes its way through fog. He detects at long range and far in advance of general information the dire possibilities of international strife. It may be remembered that it was Mr. LOOMIS who, about fifteen months ago, started the country with this thrilling description of the perils we escaped because the Administration lost no time in its proper and expedient recognition of the Panama Republic:

"The moment that the cables flashed from Bogota to Paris the astounding news that the extension of the French concession was cancelled, a French squadron from Martinique would have borne down upon the isthmus, and perhaps landed marines at Colon and sent them across the Isthmus to Panama and along the line of the canal to protect the interests and property of French citizens. There would, in all probability, have been an armed conflict between France and Colombia, or France at least would have felt herself compelled to hold the Isthmus for a long period. This would have wrought immediately and poignantly upon the sensibilities of the American people in respect to the Monroe Doctrine, and we should no doubt have found ourselves viewing France with anxious apprehension. The French warships might easily have been followed by those of England and Holland, and Panama, like the Italian States, might well have been expected to furnish the spark to set half the world in flames."

The picture, to say the least, was of the kind commonly spoken of as lurid. Mr. LOOMIS's chapter of aborted history was delivered by him on Dec. 15, 1903, in the form of an after dinner speech to the peaceable Quill Club of this town. Among the guests who listened to the revelation was Mr. BUNAC-VARELLA, to whose efforts more than to any other one cause this country owes its acquisition of the Panama franchise and property. How that sophisticated but friendly Frenchman must have trembled at the thought that the country which he so highly esteems had so narrowly escaped a situation imperiling its relations with that other republic which he so fondly loves!

Are there any other points on the Monroe Doctrine map besides Panama and Santo Domingo where Assistant Secretary LOOMIS's clairvoyant eye discerns the slumbering spark that may set half the world in flames?

The more we contemplate Assistant Secretary LOOMIS as a diplomat in the subjective mood, the more we dwell upon his abilities as a seer and a rhetorician, the better satisfied we are with the sensible arrangement by which important matters of international policy will be supervised, during Mr. HAY's absence this spring, by the mature and tranquil mind of the present Secretary of War.

Recommendations of the Nine.

More important than all the other recommendations made by the committee of nine is its plan for the separation of the "constabulary" duties of the Police Department from some of those which are described as "detective." The committee believes that by placing upon an independent bureau of the department the responsibility for the enforcement of the laws regulating the liquor traffic and prohibiting gaming and prostitution, and by relieving completely the precinct officers and patrolmen of power over such matters, the opportunities for blackmail and oppression now open to every member of the force would be narrowed substantially, to the great improvement of police morale and discipline.

The "vice bureau" of the department would be under the constant and immediate supervision of the Commissioner himself, and thus there would be small opportunity on his part for ignorance or corruption among its employees. Responsibility for the existence of illegal resorts would be centralized, and intelligent cooperation to bring about their suppression would be possible. The attention of patrolmen and precinct captains and members of their staffs would not be diverted from ordinary police duties, and their entire time could be

given to the preservation of the public peace, if the committee's plan worked well. Moreover, the committee says:

"The present system has developed a tendency (in the Police Department) to resort to lawless methods. It has become a common practice to make arrests without warrant, not only when no crime has been committed in the presence of the officer making the arrest, but when there is no reason for belief that a crime has been committed. Detention by the police without warrant are not recognized by the law of the land."

The important question is whether a division of responsibility such as is suggested by the committee would be successful in operation. That can be answered only by the fair trial of the scheme, and the strongest argument in favor of giving it a trial is the lack of good results that has marked the operation of the system now in force.

There is very general dissatisfaction with the present methods of enforcing the liquor laws, anti-gambling statutes and similar enactments of the Legislature, which involve many illegal acts on the part of the police, as the committee points out. It is impossible, probably, to enforce these laws in a manner that will please every one. Probably no system could produce wider discontent among all classes than the present one, however, and on the principle that any change must be a change for the better, the committee's recommendation is worth putting into effect for a limited period at least.

The Fatal Surplus.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune refers, not unsympathetically, to the Indiana embarrassment of political riches:

"There is a strong suspicion here that Indiana may have two Presidential candidates within the next two or three years. Senator BEVERIDGE always has laughed at the idea, but there has been some suspicious activity among his friends since the election, and some of them say he will be in the field when the primaries are held in Indiana, and will contest with FAIRBANKS for control of the State delegation. By that time Senator BEVERIDGE will be in his forty-sixth year."

In his forty-sixth year! Old Time will still be flying; but it is hard to think of the Hon. ALBERT JEREMIAH BEVERIDGE, so active, eager, exuberant, bounding forward in immortal youth, as reaching even the tempered venerability of forty-five. Mr. FAIRBANKS is less than ten years and five months older, and should be in his flower in 1908.

The correspondent holds the theory, however, that "the precedent set by ROOSEVELT necessarily will be favorable to BEVERIDGE." Besides, Mr. BEVERIDGE is in the Senate, speaking and doing, whereas Mr. FAIRBANKS has to be content with silent and statuesque dignity; and the younger man's "gifts of good oratory and good sense are likely to keep him in the public eye."

It is the curse of Indiana that she is prolific in genius of all sorts. Her poets, her novelists, her statesmen are many. There is no central sun for all these planets. So it may be that these dark vaticinations will be fulfilled and the Sky-scaper statesman and the Grand Young Man will neutralize each other.

Mr. BEVERIDGE cannot be beaten save by the impregnability of space; and we dare say he'll make that mighty uncomfortable before he gets through with it.

The Philippines and Japan.

Something like a sensation has been caused by the assertion, zealously circulated by pro-Russian newspapers and attributed to Mr. HULL, lately chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, that the motto of the Japanese is "Asia for the Asiatics," and that when they have completed the exclusion of Russia from Manchuria they will take measures to expel the United States from the Philippines. It will not be possible to divert our sympathies from Japan to Russia by such a bugaboo. The Tokio Government has done nothing since the overthrow of the Shogunate that warrants us in thinking it capable of such an act of folly. The project imputed to it, however, would be worse than foolish; it would be suicidal.

It is true that there are two superficial reasons, one ethnical, the other geographical, for supposing that the Japanese might under certain circumstances, such, for instance, as a voluntary cession on our part, like to annex the Philippines. The Tagals, the Visayas, the Moros, and in fact all the inhabitants of the Philippine archipelago except the Negrito aborigines, are of Malay stock, and there is undoubtedly a Malay element in the composite population of Japan, although this is preponderantly Mongol. Of the successive invasions by which the hairy autochthones of the Japanese insular group were exterminated, or absorbed, or expelled to the northern island of Yezo, most came from Corea; but one at least came from the south, and seems to have been an outflow of the prehistoric, transmarine expansion of the Malay race. It is also true that the Philippines constitute an important link in the insular chain which girdles the Asiatic mainland, from Saghalien to Borneo, and of most of which Japan is mistress since her acquisition of the Loochoo Islands and Formosa.

The territorial gains, however, really coveted by the Mikado's advisers as the prizes of their victory over China were not insular, but continental. They would have sacrificed many a Formosa had they been permitted to keep the Liaotung peninsula. The earth hunger of the Japanese points in the direction whence their written language, their arts and their religion were derived. Not only historical associations but physical aptitudes and habits impel them to seek aggrandizement, not in the tropics or sub-tropics, but in the temperate zone. Corea and Manchuria constitute the natural and congenial outlets for their surplus population. In that direction only an illimitable horizon is opened to Japanese ambition. For Japan, as for Europe, the star of empire westward takes its way. Heirs of Chinese civilization, the Japanese dream of becoming the rulers and redeemers of Cathay.

That dream can never be fulfilled until so large a part of the Japanese people has been transported to the Korean and Manchurian mainland that the

temporary interruption of sea communication with the island monarchy would not be necessarily fatal to projects of further continental conquest. Nobody knows better than the Mikado's counselors that, owing to its comparatively limited financial resources, their country can never hope to have a navy able to face a hostile combination of the great maritime Powers. It was by such a combination that they were forced to surrender the Liaotung peninsula, and had not the alliance with Great Britain rendered a second combination of the kind impracticable at the present time they never would have ventured to confront the Russians in Manchuria. It is, and is likely to remain for generations, a cardinal maxim of Tokio statecraft to avoid with the utmost wariness acts calculated to provoke the formation of an inimical coalition on the part of European and American navies. Such a coalition would be inevitable and spontaneous if Japan, by threatening the Philippines, should cause Great Britain to apprehend the loss of Wei-Hai-Wei and Hong Kong, Germany to fear the seizure of Kiaochow, and France to tremble for Indo-China. In the eyes of intelligent Japanese the Asiatic possessions of the great naval Powers, and especially those of the United States and Great Britain, are and must long be taboo. Only Russia is vulnerable; and that even Russia would cease to be if she could manage to create a colossal and efficient navy.

Japan being an island empire, circumspection is imposed upon her by the law of self-preservation. She must conciliate in order to survive. Without some outlets for expansion under propitious conditions of climate and soil her distended population would soon be stifled in its contracted home. To secure and keep open such outlets under broken control of the Strait of Corea must be maintained for many generations.

A century or two hence, when possibly a greater Japan shall have arisen on the Asiatic continent, as a greater England has arisen in the Western Hemisphere, and when perhaps a Japanese shall have succeeded the Manchu dynasty at Peking, Europeans may be quietly shouldered out of such Asiatic coigns of vantage as can be reached by land. The fate which has befallen the Russians in Manchuria may one day overtake the French in Indo-China and the Germans at Kiaochow. Even then Hong Kong will be safe, and the Philippines defensible, for never will the sea power of Japan be able to cope with the united navies of the English speaking race.

We speak to those fit and seasoned souls that were initiated into the mystery of baseball in the great days of the Mutuals and Athletics, when the Haymakers drank delight of battle with their peers, far on the ringing plains of Troy, N. Y.—days of hot raps and high scores. To such philosophers, the Hon. ADRIAN CONSTANTINE ANSON is more or less of a tender juvenile, still. Yet they take a friendly interest in his political ambitions. Indeed, his present canvass for City Clerk of Chicago must commend him to the admirers of diplomatic, astute and neat political games.

The enemy swore that he had "drawn the color line" in his field days. His old players rallied around him. They confessed that their prejudice had forced him to exclude colored players. So he parried an unfair blow. Now he has risen above partisanship into a purer air. His one theme is "race suicide." He leaves to other orators questions of municipal ownership of street cars and other public utilities. He celebrates himself and his associates on the Democratic ticket for their large ownership of public and private utilities of nobler sort.

"There is Judge DUNNE. He has ten children. I have four. Mr. MOAK has five children and BUCCI has one. That makes a good total for four men running on one ticket. A showing like that ought to satisfy President ROOSEVELT."

Catching the Ansonian idea hot off the bat, the Democratic literary bureau is filling the town with beautiful domestic genre, labelled "Gon Bless Our Home." The Hon. ADRIAN CONSTANTINE ANSON is worthy of his high old Roman names. He plays politics as well as he played ball.

Fun.

Vociferous winter has gone. Blossoming spring is nodding good morning. Flowering summer with its radiant and beaming welcome is at hand. Moody and hypochondriacal autumn will trot in at the appointed time, to be followed by bawling winter again.

Meantime, some politicians, Republicans and Democrats, will discuss gas and peanuts. Others in the two camps will furnish unflattering views as to grease and adulteration.

And, amid all the talk, vigilant citizens of New York city will scrutinize the futile game, "How to put MCLELLAN in a hole."

No State in the country has been so continuously and so persistently "sawed" as Rhode Island. In Providence very recently a Citizens' Union of aroused electors was organized, having for its avowed object "the restoration of a republican form of Government to Rhode Island, now ruled by an oligarchy."

It is only a few years since the complete political destruction of Rhode Island was predicted as one of the results of the "voicing of ill hands in squads by overseas and foremen." A league was organized to put a stop to this by the adoption of a secret ballot law. It was adopted, but without any appreciable change in the party divisions of the voters.

Then the existing "property qualification" in suffrage in Rhode Island was discovered to be the real cause of its political woes, and a league was organized to put an end to that. An end was put by the adoption of a constitutional amendment, but no visible change either in the party divisions or in the acknowledged leaders in Rhode Island followed.

Now, where leagues have failed, a union is organized. A republican form of government must be restored; Rhode Island must be "sawed."

From what? It is one of the most progressive, prosperous and well-governed of the small States in the country. The industry and skill of its inhabitants are remarkable. It has chosen Republican or Democratic

Governors, as the preference of its voters has favored. Its conservatism is in office. It has had GARVING.

From ANTHONY TO ALDRICH its interests have been brilliantly and effectively served at Washington by men exercising as much influence as the representatives of a great State. Its administration has been enlightened; its credit is unchallenged; its treasury full and its people prosperous.

Why does Rhode Island constantly need to be "sawed"? The superintendent and assistant superintendent of street cleaning of Cleveland were standing in front of the City Hall, "discussing city business." Along comes a patrolman. "Move on!" The two conversers refuse to move on. They tell the patrolman that they are engaged in the performance of their duty. Of course, he is not to be moved. The two good fellows are talking back. They get a ride in a patrol wagon. Now a member of the Board of Safety utters this foolish saying:

"There is no law to prevent a man from 'sawing' a policeman."

The law of laws, the primary commandment and prohibition, the heart of the code for policemen is: "Thou shalt not talk back." Nobody can have any sympathy for those Cleveland officials. Policemen are tolerant of much. Many wrongs they can forgive. Many derelictions a wise charity, a large view of human nature, will not let them see. But to "talk back" hurts their holiest feelings, stirs the deepest foundations of their natures, and invites the club.

French interests are certainly predominant in Morocco. We recently sent some warships to Tangier and withdrew them in the most gentlemanly manner when the job was done.

WOMAN.

Is She Really Escapes Outside the Home and the School?

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In The Sun of March 18, James Clancy announces that "outside of the schoolroom and the home" he "does not know of any sphere in which woman's activities could be utilized to the benefit of the community at large," and declares that in saying this he merely "echoes the opinions of great writers and men and women of experience."

And only a meek and humble observer, knowing little of the sphere of the new and make beds, as Mr. Clancy thinks club women must do, I like to pick up a few scraps of information here and there from the superior sex when they will deign to enlighten me. Compared with our record export year, 1901, we are \$211,000,000 short. In fact, February, 1906, gave us a smaller excess of exports over imports than did any month since 1897.

Comparing eight months of 1905 with eight months of 1906, the drop in our exports is \$1,019,000,000, there is a loss of \$1,019,000,000. This loss was mainly in the reduced exports of cotton and wheat, and breadstuffs generally. In cotton alone the loss was \$25,000,000. In wheat and breadstuffs the loss in these two items of \$80,000,000.

In other lines of exports there were a good many respectable increases, particularly in manufactures. In that interesting and profitable division there was an increase of \$1,000,000 for the seven months ended January, 1906. Details of the Bureau of Statistics for February are not yet completely footed up, but the indications are that the falling off in cotton and breadstuffs is more than made up by other lines of export.

More American business activity, more trading of the kind and preference of foreign buyers, a careful relaxation of credits, more "bankers' drummers," and more ships already needed in our export business.

WALTER J. BALLARD.
SCENECADY, March 20.

The Bremen Soldier.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: From the general tenor of the official and press news concerning the movements of the Russian army since Saturday, it would appear that the Russian army is setting its army into shape and is ready to move forward. The descriptions given of its condition and the circumstances of the retreat from Mukden are to be credited.

A short time ago a German military writer who was with Kuropatkin at Liaoyang in the *Militaerische Welt* stated that whenever the truth was made known as to with how small a force he fought a greatly superior Japanese army, and covered the retreat, the world would be amazed at the failure of the Japanese to accomplish his complete destruction. With regard to the real cause of Kuropatkin's defeat in the present case, the cause assigned by the German writer is that the Russian army appears to have been deficient or erroneous information as to the Japanese numbers and movements, that occasioned confusion in every direction. Thus Tieling appears to have been precipitately abandoned, necessitating the evacuation of Kuropatkin, twenty miles further north, on Saturday.

The Japanese paper *Asahi*, probably on good authority, states what I ventured to say the other day, that the Russian army is now concentrating at Kunching, below the junction of the railway to Kirin, with the intention of presenting a new front to the Japanese advance. From Gen. Linievitch's report it is evident that the Russian army is keeping a close watch on the Japanese movements up the Siumintun road on its right flank to the railway junction for Kirin at Kuangsheng, as he speaks of their carrying out a plan to march west of the Tieling, and appearing at Kiatat, further north and to the west of Kirin. The situation again becomes interesting, as with the reinforcements sent to him from Harbin he is able to fight a delaying action and gain time for the arrival of the fresh troops now on their way from Russia.

To the Japanese it is of the utmost importance to be established on the Sungari before the navigation opens, about the end of next month or beginning of May, when the country roads will be mere mud tracks. For this reason they will probably first make for Kirin, toward which there is reason to believe Gen. Kuropatkin is marching through the mountains east of the railway and the Imperial Highway.

As to Admiral Rojdestvensky's squadron, a correspondent in Holland informs me that the Dutch Government has given instructions to its authorities in the Dutch East Indies to observe the strictest neutrality toward the ships of both belligerents in their service, and that the extent of the service should either side violate or attempt to evade the laws of neutrality. The Dutch Government is said to be particularly nervous over the general situation, having in mind that which Holland lost in the South African colony finally and Java temporarily during the Napoleonic wars.

Things Japanese.

It is interesting to learn that Gen. Nogai and Gen. Kuroki are members of the Presbyterian Church, and that Field Marshal Oyama's wife is also a member of good standing of that denomination.

Admiral Togo is a Roman Catholic.

Other instances of high Japanese officials being Christians might be noted. No country in the world possesses a larger number of religious liberty than does Japan. That is one of the secrets of her success and progress during these latter years.

Japanese shipping tonnage passed from 130,000 tons in 1900 to 600,000 tons in 1905. Japan has 553 merchant ships. The Government subsidizes the shipping industry, and the total includes three institutes established by the Government for the training of teachers for technical schools, and for the training of students, professors, manufacturers and merchants to the various countries in the search for knowledge and experience.

Day after day Japan is an object lesson to the world.

OUR IMPORTS STILL GROWING.

Analysis of the Present Condition of the Nation's Purchase Account.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Though February was a short month, the second of the year, 1906, our imports for the month in the history of American commerce. April, 1907, when goods were rushed in to escape the expected Dingley tariff, reached \$101,327,000, the next largest month. This rush began as soon as it was known that President McKinley would call the extra session of Congress to frame and adopt that tariff.

From \$88,000,000 in February, 1900, our imports have steadily increased each February (except February, 1901), till the largest total, \$101,327,000, of last month was reached. For the eight months ended February, 1906, the total was \$188,989,000, and so on (except 1901, eight months) up to \$728,889,000 for the eight months just closed. Over 1904, eight months, the increase is \$75,000,000.

This constant increase in imports might be alarming were it not for two good reasons: First, the continuous and heavy increase in our population from immigration and from natural increase. Second, the constant and growing activity of our manufacturing industries. As the month ended January, the details to the end of February are not yet available—we imported \$17,000,000 worth more of coffee and \$14,900,000 worth of sugar.

In testimony to the soundness of the second reason is the fact that for the seven months ended with January there was a large increase in our imports of manufacturers' materials. This increase was chiefly in raw materials. This increase was chiefly in raw materials. This increase was chiefly in raw materials. This increase was chiefly in raw materials.

Our Exports Still Decreasing.

It is discouraging, however, that our exports continue to decrease. Not but that there is a wide margin yet (\$281,000,000 for the eight months ended February) between our exports and our imports. The total for the eight months just closed is \$112,000,000 short of the preceding similar period, and \$20,000,000 short of the similar period before.

Compared with our record export year, 1901, we are \$211,000,000 short. In fact, February, 1906, gave us a smaller excess of exports over imports than did any month since 1897.

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The Circus.

When the elephants are marching
And the band begins to play;
When the mule pawing charges
Pretend along the sidewalk way;

When the airy fairy flies
Through the hoops of paper fire;
When the clowning jester exchanges
Their exhorting wit;

When the spangled flying wonder
Hangs suspended in the air;
When the mighty roaring lion
Is confined in his lair;

Then must I be frolicked unthin
To the circus take with me.
"The circus has been witnessed."
He's the boy I used to be.

McLELLAN WILSON.

OUR TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Our exports to South Africa for the last three calendar years have been as follows:

1903	\$21,685,839
1904	\$27,744,148
1905	\$16,480,063

Beginning with 1905 that corner of the globe manifested an increasing disposition to purchase American products. Our sales for the fiscal year 1905 were \$5,203,378. For the fiscal year 1906 they were \$10,269,482. This doubled during the following years, but the record has now dropped back. A few articles have fairly held their own and a few show a modest increase. But none of these are items of large importance. The falling off in most lines is marked and in many it is heavy. The following may be given as indicative of the course of trade. The figures are for calendar years:

Agricultural implements	\$1,020,053	\$104,768
Corn	1,544,189	189,019
Wheat flour	1,972,735	123,685
Clothing	4,284	6,240
Clocks, watches, etc.	94,296	83,997
Electrical appliances	853,096	158,107
Builders' hardware	1,000,000	228,116
Canned meats	1,000,000	443,431
Hog products	761,982	494,342
Lumber	1,212,872	738,032
Furniture	488,134	259,077

The result shows their own or imported increase are cotton cloth, electrical machinery, locomotives, sole leather, cotton-seed oil, mineral oil, paper, fresh beef, sugar and tobacco.

To some extent this trade decadence is attributable to local conditions. Immediately after the close of the war large quantities of merchandise came to South Africa in anticipation of a trade boom. The result was a considerable overstocking by local merchants. The total import trade shows a fall of about 30 per cent. for the year. But the falling off of American trade is about 40 per cent.

The present indications point to an early reaction and an increased importation. The mines of the Transvaal are now restored to their ante-war activities, and the Orange River colony, Natal and Cape Colony show new and steady improvement in trade conditions. The normal volume of import trade for British South Africa at the present time may be estimated at a little more than \$200,000,000 a year, with a tendency to steady increase from year to year. The American slice of that is far too small. There are many lines in which our sales should and might be increased notwithstanding the British preference in customs duties.

Commenting on this point, Mr. Joseph L. Proffit, American Consul at Pretoria, says:

"American exporters may expect to find increased markets here for a great many lines, chief among which may be mentioned machinery of all kinds, tramway materials, boots and shoes, hats and caps, groceries, tinware, furniture, agricultural implements, electric supplies and glassware."

To speak frankly, our exporters have not proceeded in the proper manner to capture their fair share of the trade. The trade must be wooed by Representatives must be constantly here, lest they find themselves supplanted in the favor of the South African merchant. The English and German houses have in the past adopted the plan of following together and sending a common representative whose duty it is to push several different lines. The cost of maintaining a representation is thus lessened. The American has always before the eyes of the local buyer. The method has proved very effective, and the example might well be followed by our American houses.

Sooner or later, persistent reiteration of the assertion that Americans can get foreign business wherever they wish to go after it in a business way will have its effect on our export sales.

COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA.

No Aid for Rebels Against Castro From Reyes's Government.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In The Sun of March 19 you print a telegraphic dispatch from Washington, in which it is alleged that the reason President Castro of Venezuela will not receive Gen. Calles as Colombian Minister to Caracas is that he is alleged to have helped Calles give to the Venezuelan revolutionaries and their leader, Gen. Matos, when he (Calles) was Secretary of the Colombian legation in London. The same dispatch further says that Calles is at present at Bogota, the capital of Colombia, obtaining Gen. Reyes's help, or that of his Government, in order to start a revolution against President Castro.

Allow me to give a flat denial to such misrepresentation of the truth. In the first place, the name of the Colombian Minister to Venezuela is not Calles; his right name is Lucas Caballero. He has never been in Venezuela, and the only diplomatic position he had ever held before being appointed Minister to Venezuela was that of Counselor of Legation when Gen. Reyes came to this country on an important mission when the secession of Panama from Colombia took place.

It is true that Gen. Matos is and has been for some time living in Bogota; it is also true that he is a personal friend of President Rafael Reyes. I was even introduced to him by the latter on the very day he was elected First Magistrate of my country; but it is absolutely false that Gen. Reyes or the Colombian Government will help Calles or any other person to help Calles in his plans against President Castro.

Gen. Reyes has never been in Venezuela, and he has never been in Bogota, the capital of Colombia, obtaining Gen. Reyes's help, or that of his Government, in order to start a revolution against President Castro.

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